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LETTER DATED 1 DECEMBER 1992 FROM THE CHARGE D'AFFAIRES A.I. OF THE PERMANENT MISSION OF YUGOSLAVIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

With reference to the letter of the Permanent Representative of Croatia to the United Nations, of 25 November 1992 (S/24856) to your predecessor, I have the honour to draw your attention to the following:

1. My Government finds it particularly surprising that in the above letter Security Council resolution 787 (1992) has been interpreted as one directed at the strict implementation of sanctions exclusively against the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. I do not wish to reply at this time to the allegations about the Serbian authorities' "involvement in the aggression against the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina". Since in the letter reference was made to the aggression against Bosnia and Herzegovina, I would only like to recall Security Council resolution 787 (1992), which, in its paragraph 5, demanded, inter alia, that "all forces, in particular elements of the Croatian army, be withdrawn, or be subject to the authority of the Government of the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina, or be disbanded or disarmed".

2. Security Council resolution 713 (1991) imposed a general and complete embargo on all deliveries of weapons and military equipment to the territory of the former Yugoslavia. These provisions have been reaffirmed in all subsequent relevant resolutions of the Security Council, including resolutions 757 (1992) and 787 (1992).

The monitoring and inspection of merchant shipping is not therefore confined only to vessels sailing to or from the territorial waters of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. In accordance with resolution 713 (1991), those measures apply to the vessels destined to or from all Adriatic ports of the former Yugoslavia, including those of Croatia. This has also been confirmed by the Ministers of the Western European Union at the meeting held in Rome on 20 November 1992 (S/24847).

It is evident from the provisions of the Security Council resolutions concerning the arms embargo on the former Yugoslavia that all merchant ships sailing to or from Croatian territorial waters must equally be monitored and inspected. Therefore, if any guidelines were to be adopted in this respect, they would have to take into account that the arms embargo was imposed on all republics of the former Yugoslavia.

I should be grateful if this letter were circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Dragomir DJOKIĆ
Ambassador
Chargé d'affaires a.i.